

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 /132 W

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2389

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

PASS USITC FOR HART

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE (TRIF)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN INFORMAL MEETING OF KEY DELS
APRIL 6, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON TARGET DATE OF JUNE 30,
1977, FOR COMPLETION OF ALL 1974 TRIF'S, AND SEPTEMBER 30,
1977, FOR COMPLETION OF NEW:UPDATED TRIF'S. NEW TRIF'S
WILL BE BASED ON TARIFFS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1977, SHOWING
AVE'S BASED ON IMPORTS IN 1974, 1975 AND 1976. JAPAN,
AFTER MANY MONTHS OF REFUSAL, FINALLY AGREED TO PROVIDE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE DESCRIPTIONS FOR THEIR NEW TRIF. END
SUMMARY.

2. AT U.S. SUGGESTION, INFORMAL MEETING ON TRIF WAS
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HELD AT SWISS DELEGATION ON APRIL 1 ATTENDED BY ALL
MAJOR DC PARTICIPANTS, EXCEPT NORDICS, PLUS GATT
SECRETARIAT. MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THIS AND PREVIOUS
MEETINGS HAVE BEEN: (1) TO GET AGREEMENT TO UPDATE TRIF
FROM JANUARY 1, 1974 VERSION; (2) TO ENCOURAGE DELS
WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED INCOMPLETE OR DEFECTIVE TRIF'S
(ESPECIALLY JAPANESE TRIF WITH NO ITEM DESCRIPTIONS) TO

BRING THEM UP TO SPECIFICATIONS; (3) TO AGREE ON CHANGES IN CONTENT OR FORMAT OF TRIF WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE USEFUL.

3. EACH DEL RESPONDED TO A LIST OF DEFICIENCIES IN THE INDIVIDUAL 1974 TRIF'S CIRCULATED BY SECRETARIAT BEFORE THE MEETING (COPIES SENT TO ITC-BOYD AND STR-FEKETEKUTY). THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT CITED FOR ANY DEFICIENCY; CANADA HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED PROBLEMS TO OTTAWA FOR CORRECTIONS; AUSTRALIA REITERATED ITS INCLINATION TO DO NO FURTHER TRIF WORK, AUSTRIA ANNOUNCED THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF ITS 1974 SUBMISSION; THE EC REPORTED THAT AS A TECHNICAL AND POLICY MATTER, INCIDENCES OF VARIABLE LEVIES WOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED; JAPAN SAID ITS LONG-AWAITED DESCRIPTIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED BUT ONLY FOR THE NEW TRIF; SOUTH AFRICA VOLUNTEERED TO ADD AVE'S BASED ON 1974 TRADE TO ITS OLD TRIF; SWITZERLAND SAID ITS FORMAT IRREGULARITIES WOULD BE CORRECTED; GATT SECRETARIAT SPEAKING FOR NORDICS SAID THEIR CORRECTED TRIF'S WOULD BE READY IN A FEW WEEKS. GROUP AGREED TO SET TARGET OF JUNE 30 FOR COMPLETION OF ALL 1974 TRIF REVISIONS.

4. ALL DELS (EXCEPT AUSTRALIA AND ABSENT NORDICS) AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF UPDATING TRIF TO MORE RECENT DATE. GROUP DECIDED ON JANUARY 1, 1977, SINCE 1976 DATA DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY WAS THOUGHT TO BE RAPIDLY BECOMING OBSOLETE. JAPANESE NOTED THAT SINCE THEIR TARIFF CHANGES OCCUR ON 1 APRIL, THEY WOULD SUBMIT NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRIF ON BASIS OF 1 APRIL 1977. DELS AGREED THAT TIME SERIES OF AVE'S, AS PROVIDED IN 1974 TRIF, WOULD BE USEFUL. NEW TRIF WILL THEREFORE SHOW AVE'S FOR THREE YEARS' TRADE (1974-76). SECRETARIAT WILL PROVIDE IN TWO WEEKS A NEW SET OF CLEARER AND MORE DETAILED TRIF SPECIFICATIONS BASED ON THE CURRENT FORMAT. WE WILL FORWARD THESE SPECS TO HART, USITC, IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT SO THAT WORK CAN PROCEED ON NEW U.S. TRIF. SECRETARIAT WILL ALSO SUGGEST WAYS TO CONCORD CURRENT TRIF WITH NEW TRIF AND WITH TRADE STATISTICS.CULBERT

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